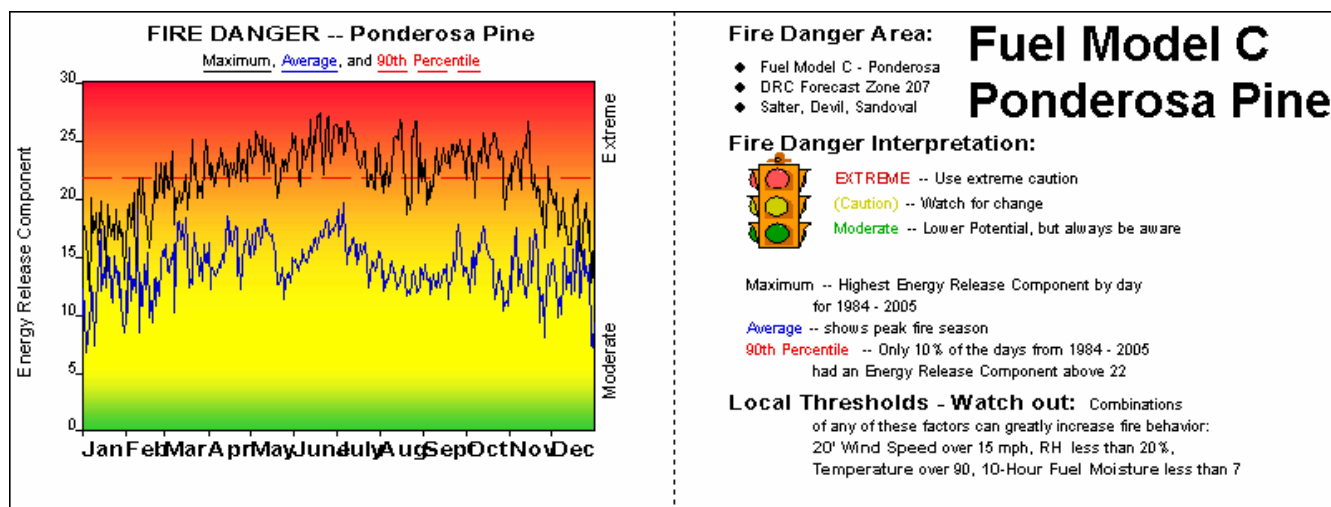




Southwest Colorado Fire Danger Fuel Model C – Ponderosa Pine



Fuel Model C PONDEROSA PINE (7,000' to 9,000') - Open ponderosa pine stands with a Grass and Gambel oak understory typify Model C fuels in Southwestern Colorado. Grass, and Pine needle litter, Gambel oak litter and branchwood are the primary carriers of the fire. Perennial grasses and forbs can either contribute to, or retard, fire spread depending upon live fuel moistures and time of year. Oak brush and other shrubs are usually present and will contribute significantly to the fire behavior depending on their densities and height. Rates of spread are typically slower than Fuel Model C in other areas; however, flame length and fireline intensity is greater. Torching and spotting are common, especially when the brush interconnects with the pine canopy. Because of the open canopy, group torching is more common than crown runs. Sustained crown runs are rare and generally occur only in extreme conditions of drought and wind.

Dates to Remember:

Disappointment Fire, 7/20/96, 3,840 Acres, BI-40, ERC-40

Missionary Ridge Fire, 6/9/02, 73,121 Acres, BI-80, ERC- 60